

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

1. (Previously Presented) A method of preventing an unauthorized use of a virtual compact disc (CD) image file utilizing a virtual CD program through which the virtual CD image file stored in a computer is read in a reproducible state, comprising:

temporarily storing an identification of a user computer within the virtual CD program when the virtual CD program is executed;

accessing a server supplying a predetermined virtual CD image file through the user computer;

allowing the user to download the virtual CD image file supplied from the server into the user computer;

storing the user computer identification temporarily stored within the virtual CD program in the downloaded virtual CD image file;

comparing the user computer identification temporarily stored within the virtual CD program with a second identification stored in the virtual CD image file when the downloaded virtual CD image file is selected to be reproduced; and

interrupting reading the selected downloaded virtual CD image file through the virtual CD program if the two identifications do not match.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the temporarily stored identification is read from a CMOS-RAM of the user computer.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the user downloads the virtual CD image file by driving a file transfer protocol (FTP) module within the virtual CD program.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the temporarily stored identification is a central processing unit (CPU) number.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the allowing of the user to download the virtual CD image file further comprises requesting the user to enter an authentication number to determine whether the user is authorized to use the virtual CD image file when downloading the virtual CD image file.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising receiving a CD key transmitted from the server, the CD key being required for using the downloaded virtual CD image file.

7. (Previously Presented) A method of preventing an unauthorized use of a virtual compact disc (CD) image file utilizing a virtual CD program through which the virtual CD image file stored in a computer is read in a reproducible state, comprising:

storing an identification of a user computer in a predetermined register within the user computer as designated by the virtual CD program when the virtual CD program is installed;

accessing a server supplying a predetermined virtual CD image file through the user computer;

allowing the user to download the virtual CD image file supplied from the server into the user computer;

storing the user computer identification stored in the registry of the user computer in the downloaded virtual CD image file;

comparing the user computer identification stored in the registry of the user computer with a second identification stored in the downloaded virtual CD image file when the downloaded virtual CD image file is selected to be reproduced; and

interrupting reading the selected downloaded virtual CD image file through the virtual CD program if the two identifications do not match.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 7, wherein the identification stored in the registry is read from a CMOS-RAM of the user computer.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 7, wherein the user downloads the virtual CD image file by driving a file transfer protocol (FTP) module within the virtual CD program.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 7, wherein the identification stored in

the registry is a central processing unit (CPU) number.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 7, wherein the allowing of the user to download the virtual CD image file comprises requesting the user to enter an authentication number to determine whether the user is authorized to use the virtual CD image file when downloading the virtual CD image file.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 7, further comprising receiving a CD key transmitted from the server, the CD key being required for using the downloaded virtual CD image file.

13. (Previously Presented) A networked virtual CD device, comprising:
a programmed computer processor requiring a virtual CD accessible state tied to a virtual CD image file and the virtual CD device at a downloading time of the virtual CD, and allowing access to the virtual CD image file according to the accessible state, the virtual CD accessible state being accessible when an identification that is temporarily stored within a virtual CD program when the virtual CD program is executed matches a second identification stored in the downloaded virtual CD image file when the downloaded virtual CD image file is selected to be reproduced.

14. (Original) The device of claim 13, wherein the programmed computer processor further maintains an identification corresponding to the downloading virtual CD device, stores the maintained identification in the downloaded virtual CD during the downloading, and in response to an access to the downloaded virtual CD, determines the accessible state according to a match between the maintained identification and the identification of the downloaded virtual CD.

15. (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:
requiring a virtual CD accessible state tied to the virtual CD image file and a downloading virtual CD device downloading the virtual CD image file; and
allowing access to the virtual CD image file according to the accessible state, the virtual CD accessible state being accessible when an identification that is temporarily stored within a virtual CD program when the virtual CD program is executed matches a second identification stored in the downloaded virtual CD image file when the downloaded virtual CD image file is selected to be reproduced.

16. (Previously Presented) A computer readable storage controlling a virtual medium device according to a process of:

storing an identification corresponding to the virtual medium device within the virtual medium device when the virtual medium device is executed and storing the identification stored within the virtual medium device in a downloading authorized virtual medium image file;

comparing the identification stored within the virtual medium device with a second identification stored in the virtual medium image file when the downloaded virtual medium image file is selected to be reproduced; and

allowing the authorized virtual medium image file to be only driven in the virtual medium device having the identification during the downloading of the virtual medium image file, based on a resulting match from the comparison.